Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix

PRESS RELEASE

Byzantia Harlow:
The psychotic drowns in the same waters in which the mystic swims with delight

16th December 2026 – 6th February 2027
Private view and opening reception: 13th Dec., 2pm - 5pm



'A thread. A cord. A knot to connect. We weave our web of living and dead...'
hand embroidery with beaded gemstones,
installed at Millbrook Chapel of Rest,
supported by Rame Projects Cornwall, Maker Heights and Rame Conservation Trust.
Funded by Arts Council England, 2025.
Photography by Megan Roberts

Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix is pleased to announce The psychotic drowns in the same waters in which the mystic swims with delight, Byzantia Harlow's third solo exhibition at the gallery.

The exhibition has developed out of Harlow's installation and performance in the burial ground of a small historic chapel on a Cornish peninsula. A large embroidery, first shown as a site-specific installation at the Millbrook Chapel of Rest in 2025, now comes to a London audience, where its urban setting gives it new layers of meaning. New works accompany it: smaller embroideries, thirteen paintings on paper, a sculptural work and an audio piece.

The exhibition centres on constellations and the zodiac, and more widely on the expanse of the sky and the universe, a theme that is both inclusive and universal. On the ground floor, thirteen paintings on paper encircle the room like a night sky. The first twelve each interpret a sign of the zodiac, based on the constellation engravings of the astronomer Johannes Hevelius. Harlow adds her own narrative to them, almost as if she were giving them new fates or finding her own patterns in the stars. The thirteenth painting refers to the Zodiac Man, a traditional medical and astrological diagram that assigns each of the twelve signs to a part of the human body. Harlow paints the figure as a woman, placed at the centre of the universe. The paintings are skilfully rendered in watercolour with metallic, lustrous tints, at once precise and loose. Within this painted constellation sit further elements of the show's spiritual universe: small embroideries based on alchemical symbols and the stained glass of the Millbrook Chapel of Rest, a totemic sculpture, co-created with her father, Paolo Guidi, incorporating stained glass salvaged from a Ukrainian church, a raven's head made of black porcelain and a silver crown.

In the darkened basement hangs a large circular embroidery. Its images include figures inspired by the Tarot which float across its dark sky among countless stars and constellations. Alongside it plays the audio work 'Ebbed Tide', adapted from Harlow's own writing, which was the original source of inspiration for every work in the show.

Ebbed Tide tells of the mystery of spiritual connections. It reaches beyond the story of one's life, letting the mind wander to destiny, to the world and to the universe, and to how the events in life are determined. Do the signs of the zodiac and the constellations shape our fate? Harlow's works express who she is and are guided by her intuition. She has deep spiritual and psychic gifts, and her work invites us to look at our lives from a broader, higher perspective. It embodies the return to humanity and awe at the mysterious, and it is perhaps only natural that her work is reaching a wider audience as so many people feel disconnected from the world which is increasingly governed by rigid norms and reasoning.

The title is a quote from the mythologist Joseph Campbell.

Opening Event

The exhibition opens on Sunday 13 December, 2–5pm, with tea and refreshments.

From 2pm, Huma Kabakci will enact a sound healing session with Quantum Alchemy Crystal Bowls.

At 3pm, Harlow will be in conversation with her father Paolo Guidi. They will be discussing themes from the exhibition, including; art and archetypes, synchronisities, apophenia and symbols as well as their collaborative work in the exhibition, 'Guardian,' a totemic sculpture. Guidi is a Jungian analyst and designer. He co-wrote the guidebook to Harlow's 'Aetheric Tarot'.

During the exhibition, the audio work will be broadcast on Do!! You!!! World (www.doyou.world) The date and time will be announced in due course.

Byzantia Harlow (b. 1986) lives and works in London

Harlow's practice encompasses a diverse range of references and media, drawing on her interest in faith, belief, trust, ritual, replication and the gap between real experience and artificial effect/affect as it is perceived and performed by the artist, the work, and, ultimately, by the viewer. The works are ephemeral, beguiling, and oddly forbidding – images and forms hover, half recognised and half remembered from other places and other narratives. (Meg Boulton)

Solo exhibitions include Ebbed Tide, Millbrook Chapel of Rest, Cornwall (2025); Aetheric, Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix, London (2023); Take What Resonates, presented by AM-POP & Harlesden High Street, 108 Fleet Street (2021); From the same source I have not taken, Yamamoto Keiko Rochaix, London and The Enterprise Centre, University of East Anglia (2018); Duplicate (No one will drink the water of your well if you yourself do not drink it), Chalton Gallery, London (2017); Polyester Breeze, The Telfer Gallery, Glasgow (2017); Spirit Line, The Luminary, St Louis, Missouri (2016). Harlow created radio projects The Silver Stream on Soho Radio (2018 – 2021), and wrote a novella Ebbed Tide (2023) which investigates synchronistic events and spiritual connections.

For further information, images or to arrange interviews please contact:
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Dates: 16 December 2026 - 6 February 2027
Private View: Sunday 13 December 2pm-5pm
Address: 19 Goulston St, London, E1 7TP
Opening Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, noon – 6pm
Travel: Aldgate East, Aldgate, Liverpool Street

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